

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Previously Amended): A delivery apparatus for a self-expanding stent comprising:

a substantially tubular shaft having a proximal end, a distal end, a guidewire lumen extending between the proximal and distal ends, and a stent bed proximate the distal end upon which ~~the~~ a self-expanding stent is positioned; and

a substantially tubular sheath defining an interior volume, the sheath having a proximal end, a distal end, and an enlarged section proximate the distal end, the sheath being coaxially positioned over the shaft such that the enlarged section is aligned with the stent bed, the sheath including an inner polymeric layer, an outer polymeric layer, and a reinforcement layer, the reinforcement layer comprising a flat wire having a substantially rectangular cross-section, the flat wire being formed from stainless steel and having a width of 0.003 inches and a height of 0.001 inches.

Claim 2 (Original): The delivery apparatus for a self-expanding stent according to Claim 1, wherein the reinforcement layer is sandwiched between the inner and outer polymeric layers and extends along a predetermined length of the sheath.

Claim 3 (Cancelled)

Claim 4 (Cancelled)

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The delivery apparatus for a self-expanding stent according to Claim 1, wherein the flat wire is arranged in a braided configuration.

Claim 6 (Original): The delivery apparatus for a self-expanding stent according to Claim 1, wherein the inner polymeric layer comprises polytetrafluoroethylene.

Claim 7 (Original): The delivery apparatus for a self-expanding stent according to Claim 1, wherein the outer polymeric layer comprises Nylon®.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A delivery apparatus for a self-expanding stent comprising:

a shaft having a proximal end, a distal end, a guidewire lumen extending between the proximal and distal ends, and a stent bed proximate the distal end upon which ~~a~~ the self-expanding stent is mounted; and

a sheath defining an interior volume, the sheath having a proximal end, a distal end, and an enlarged section proximate the distal end, the sheath being coaxially positioned over the shaft such that the enlarged section is aligned with the stent bed, the sheath including an inner polymeric layer, a lubricious coating on the inner polymeric layer, an outer polymeric layer, and a reinforcement layer, the reinforcement layer comprising a flat wire having a substantially rectangular cross section, the flat wire being formed from stainless steel and having a width of 0.003 inches and a height of 0.001 inches.

Claim 9 (Original): The delivery apparatus for a self-expanding stent according to Claim 8, wherein the reinforcement layer is sandwiched between the inner and outer polymeric layers and extends along substantially the length of the sheath.

Claim 10 (Cancelled)

Claim 11 (Cancelled)

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The delivery apparatus for a self-expanding stent according to Claim 8, wherein the flat wire is arranged in a braided configuration.

Claim 13 (Original): The delivery apparatus for a self-expanding stent according to claim 8, wherein the inner polymer layer comprises polytetrafluoroethylene.

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Claim 14 (Original): The delivery apparatus for a self-expanding stent according to Claim 8, wherein the outer polymeric layer comprises Nylon®.

Claim 15 (Original): The delivery apparatus for a self-expanding stent according to Claim 8, wherein the lubricious coating on the inner polymeric layer comprises a silicone based material.